

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 8, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Doug Riehl
Project Manager - TNP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: SnoKing Tap Relocation

Budget Information: W.O. 00001666, Task 04

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6

Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed area.

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to construct a new three-pole steel transmission structure to allow the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish transmission line to connect to the Echo Lake-Monroe transmission line. This project will help to better deliver reliable power to specific areas. Work for the proposed activity will commence August 1 and be completed by September 30. The Project will consist of a new transmission line structure, some access road work, and the construction of two landing sites. Each landing site will be approximately 70 feet by 70 feet. The new three-pole structure will require three 6-7 feet diameter holes approximately 20-35 feet deep. The excess fill from the excavation will be used to help create the two landings, backfill holes created when existing wood poles are removed, and improve access roads. Any remaining fill will be removed to upland areas. All project staging will be within the existing ROW and over 400 feet from any stream or waterbody. A bulldozer will be used to improve the existing road to allow access for two cranes. Other equipment that will be used on the project includes heavy-duty pickup trucks, a grader, and a bucket truck. An auger will be used to drill the new holes for the three poles. Implosive fittings will be used to attach the conductors. There will be no tree removal as a result of this project. Erosion and sediment controls will be implemented to eliminate any effects from potential erosion.

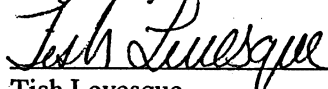
Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

A species list received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued on March 10, 2003, listed wintering Bald eagle (Threatened) and Bull trout (Threatened) as potentially occurring within the project area. A species list generated from the NOAA Fisheries listing website listed Puget Sound Chinook (Threatened) as potentially occurring in the project area. Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of no effect for all ESA-listed species. Pursuant to its obligation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, BPA has made a determination that the proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. Effects to the Essential Fish Habitat were analyzed for the following species: Pink salmon, Coho salmon and Chinook salmon.

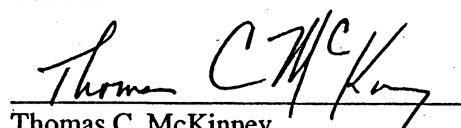
A record and file search at the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (SHPO) indicated that no cultural resource surveys have taken place within one mile of the project area, nor have any historical or archaeological resources been recorded. No cultural materials were observed on the surface or in the shovel test probes during a field survey conducted on June 6, 2003. Pursuant to its obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA has made a determination that the proposed project will have no effect on National Register eligible or listed historic and cultural resources. Concurrence with this determination was given by the SHPO on June 30, 2003.

The proposed project is not located near any wetland or floodplain areas.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We, therefore, determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.


Tish Levesque
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:


Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7/8/2003

Attachment: Provisions

cc:

T. Levesque – KEC-4
H. Adams – LC-7
B. Sweet - TFNF/SNOHOMISH
J. Grover – TNLC-TPP-3
D. Riehl – TNP-TPP-1
Official File – KEC (EQ-15)

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ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

1. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted, and BPA will consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and a qualified archaeologist.